



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY HALL KIVA
3939 DRINKWATER BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008**

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Robert Frost, Chair
George Adams, Commissioner
Jeanne Alspaugh, Commissioner
James Duchene, Commissioner (arrived at 5:22 p.m.)
Ron King, Commissioner

ABSENT: John Faramelli, Vice Chair
Ronald Petersen, Commissioner

STAFF: Tim Barnard, CIP/Planning Coordinator
Bob Cafarella, Preservation Director
Jan Cameron, Parks and Recreation Manager
Leslie Clark, Parks and Recreation Manager
Trina Clemens, Admin Secretary
Scott Hamilton, Preserve Trails Planner
John Loleit, Recreation Coordinator
William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director
Doug Nesselroad, Parks & Recreation Manager
Mari Steinbach, Parks & Recreation Manager

GUESTS: Robin Rogers, CPM
Phil Weddle, Weddle Gilmore Architects
Morrie Chernis, Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

A formal roll call confirmed members present as stated above, noting the presence of a quorum.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed at the request of Chair Frost.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Regular Meeting of June 4, 2008.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2008 REGULAR MEETING. COMMISSIONER ALSPAUGH SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER DUCHENE WAS NOT PRESENT.

5. UPDATE ON THE GATEWAY ACCESS AREA TO THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE

Bob Cafarella, Preservation Director, Scott Hamilton, Preserve Trails Planner, and the architect will provide an update on the status of the Gateway Access Area to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

Mr. Cafarella displayed a map of the Preserve trail system. The map indicated trails that have already been installed, those that will begin construction in the fall, and those planned. The Sunrise and Lost Dog access points have been completed. The Gateway is under construction, and planning will begin in the fall for the Northern access area. Many of the existing trails were constructed in partnership with the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. A few were constructed professionally. One of the proposed trails would use innovative design and interpretation techniques to allow accessibility to all users.

Along with the construction of the Gateway, a remedial effort there will reclaim the old jeep roads and other area scars. Twenty-three volunteer projects have been coordinated with major corporations to work on this plan.

Mr. Weddle reviewed the final design for the Gateway. The project's amenities include the entry gate, a scenic entry drive, a 200-space lot that can be expanded to 500 spaces, an equestrian/mountain bike staging area, shaded ramadas, a small amphitheater, a pedestrian bridge, and the main structure connecting to the trails. The buildings contain public restrooms as well as office space for staff and volunteers and a maintenance facility.

The facility is designed to frame views of the mountains, and blend in with the desert habitat. Construction materials typically consist of recycled content. The butterfly roof will collect rainwater for irrigation purposes. Native plants and cobble will be salvaged for use in softening the edges of the project when construction is finished. A 12 kW photovoltaic solar system will be integrated into the maintenance structure roof, allowing the facility to be energy net-zero.

Chair Frost inquired about the funding and construction timetable for the project. Mr. Cafarella responded that the Gateway improvements are being funded with the Preserve Tax and a heritage grant. The trails are being funded through a separate account

with Preserve Tax funds. The project has already begun and is scheduled for completion in March/April of 2009. Temporary parking will be available in October of 2008.

6. PINNACLE PEAK PARK UPDATE

John Loleit, Recreation Coordinator, will give an update on Pinnacle Peak Park activities and programs.

Mr. Loleit said Pinnacle Peak Park operates with two full-time staff, five part-time staff, and numerous volunteers. Working space is tight, but functional. Hikers and runners mainly use the park, with about 180,000 visitations per year. It recently welcomed its one-millionth visitor. There are 125 climbing routes of various difficulties. Equestrian use has slowed down over the past two years. When the park first opened, neighbors expressed concern about it, but now generally see it as an asset.

Since 2002, volunteers have contributed roughly 16 years' worth of work to the park. Volunteers receive about 30 hours of training every fall. They are taught about the history, archeology, geology, flora, and fauna of the park, as well as how to react in emergencies. They maintain trails, work the front desk, and conduct the "Hike to Santa" program.

Guided hikes, wildlife programs, and specialized talks are among the educational programs offered at the park. There are permanent markers and brochures that further educate visitors. The Junior Ranger Program is designed for ages 5 to 11. A biodiversity team has studied the park's plants and published a guide in a regional scientific journal.

Staff maintains good working relationships with neighboring communities to ensure quick response to any developing situations. The Pinnacle Peak Rotary Club has contributed tens of thousands of dollars to airlift building materials for the interior rest areas. The State Park System has awarded a \$50,000 grant to the park. The funds were used to rebuild some of the retaining walls on the trail. The Fire Department and Police Department have also been of great assistance.

Mr. Chernis reported that the Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park have been very active over the past two years, maintaining a website, distributing a newsletter, and raising more money for the park. Chair Frost commended the group for its contributions to the city.

In response to Chair Frost, Mr. Loleit said there are brass plaques at both rest areas, recognizing the Rotary Club contributions, and he has formally thanked the group in person.

7. PLAYGROUND/POOL EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Tim Barnard, CIP/Planning Coordinator, will give an update on playground/pool equipment replacement.

Mr. Barnard discussed the current state of the ongoing pool and playground equipment replacement projects. Replacement decisions are based on documented lifecycle replacement schedules when necessary, regular maintenance inspections, and annual audits.

The current budget for replacement of playground equipment is approximately \$270,000. Full equipment replacement is scheduled for Gainey Park and Vista del Camino Park. The Paiute Neighborhood Center has solicited grants to replace and add to their playground equipment. Staff will be working through the capital improvement budget process in the fall to ensure that enough money is available to make necessary replacements in the future.

New projects have been completed at El Dorado and Cactus pools. Cactus Pool is set to receive new starting blocks and an ADA swim lift. Chaparral Pool will receive a dive board replacement. Pool gas and chlorination equipment will be replaced and covered to increase efficiency and reduce long-term maintenance. The movable bulkhead at Cactus Pool will need replacing in the near future, at an estimated cost of about \$175,000.

In response to Commissioner Duchene, Mr. Barnard said that playground equipment is replaced whenever it becomes a safety issue. If some pieces get worn faster than others, a judgment is made to determine whether it can wait until the entire set is replaced. Equipment that is not worn enough to warrant replacement is prioritized for the next year, with the funding set aside to cover that cost. The three pre-qualified equipment vendors submit designs and budgets for playground projects and are encouraged to use creativity instead of meeting pre-set guidelines.

Mr. Murphy inquired how evaluations are made to determine what equipment needs to be replaced. Mr. Barnard responded that if certain pieces are not often utilized, they could be replaced with new substitutions.

Mr. Murphy inquired about the possibility of the Water Department funding the addition of spray pads as part of the water project at Pima Park. Mr. Barnard responded that at this point, the budget does not allow for it.

8. PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATES

Tim Barnard, CIP/Planning Coordinator, will give an update on the Park Master Plan/Municipal Use Permit.

Mr. Barnard said the Planning Department has asked the Commission to approve Park Master Use Plan updates as part of the Municipal Use Permit process. This process ensures that projects meet planning and zoning requirements. Staff has held public meetings, has received input, and identified and documented existing uses in Indian School, El Dorado, and Vista del Camino parks. He noted that the new fire station in El Dorado Park is less than one acre in size, and therefore does not have to follow the Municipal Use Permit process.

Chair Frost noted that when Indian School Park was designed, it contained a sand volleyball court, which was an innovation at the time. The current skate pad replaced a croquet court that was requested but seldom used.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARK MASTER PLAN MUNICIPAL USE PERMIT UPDATES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER DUCHENE SECONDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).

9. COMMISSION CALENDAR

William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director, will review the commission calendar for 2008-09.

Mr. Murphy said this would be the final Commission meeting of the fiscal year. The schedule would resume in September. He asked the Commission to review the proposed agendas and suggest additions.

Commissioner Alspaugh noted citizen concerns about vehicle burglaries in parked cars. Mr. Murphy responded that staff has been distributing flyers to alert people to take the necessary precautions when visiting parks.

Commissioner Duchene requested that more meetings be held in the region north of Shea Boulevard.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORT

The Commissioners will give updates on events and activities they have attended since the last Commission meeting.

Commissioner Adams said the new turf at Chaparral Park and Indian School Park is being well maintained.

Chair Frost noted that commercial development near Pinnacle Peak Park would require the Commission to consider the future of parking there.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

William Murphy, Parks and Recreation Director, will update the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks and Recreation, and Parks and Grounds Management Divisions. This includes, but is not limited to, updates on programming, special events, calendars, and upcoming meetings.

Mr. Murphy introduced Ms. Steinbach, who will oversee the Adult Sports Program and leisure activities. She previously worked in Anchorage, Alaska.

The Mayor and Council are hosting the annual Boards and Commissions Reception on June 26. The 58th Arizona Parks and Recreation Conference will be held August 25 through the 29th. The grand opening of the Scottsdale Ranch Tennis Center is scheduled for September 27.

The City's pools are embarking on the Amazing Swim Competition to encourage citizens to swim a distance equivalent to the circumference of the globe. The tennis centers plan to close during the hottest hours of the afternoon throughout the summer.

Mr. Murphy reported that renovation work has been completed at the Scottsdale Sports Complex. The Water Department will be conducting tests on the evening of June 24, in preparation for the construction project at Pima Park.

An open house meeting regarding the off-leash area at Chaparral Park, will take place on June 25. Commissioner Alspaugh volunteered to represent the Commission at the event.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens may address the members of the Parks and Recreation Commission during Public Comment. This "Public Comment" time is reserved for citizen comments regarding non-agendized items. However, Arizona State Law prohibits the Parks and Recreation Commission from discussing or taking action on an item that is not on the prepared agenda.

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, and no need for an executive session, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
AV-Tronics, Inc.

Meets established criteria.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William B. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

William B. Murphy, Director
Parks and Recreation